

Resolution for Consideration by delegates of the American Farm Bureau Federation

Whereas, Federal regulations can have a significant impact on the livelihood of farmers and ranchers, affecting their ability to operate, make a reasonable return on their investments and sustainably manage their land so that it can be handed down to their children and grandchildren; and

Whereas, American Farm Bureau Federation policy sets out a series of principles to which the Federal rulemaking process should adhere, including the use of sound science; consideration of costs and benefits to stakeholders; transparency by Federal agencies and departments; limiting abuses of the court settlement process; limiting deference granted by courts to agencies' interpretation of law; prohibiting agency misuse of social media to lobby the public in support of agency proposals; greater congressional oversight of agencies; congressional approval of major rules; a minimum comment period for rules; and reforming the *Equal Access to Justice Act*; and

Whereas, Presidents of both political parties, in issuing Executive Orders and Memoranda about the regulatory process, have, in a similar manner, articulated support for a rulemaking process that is fair, open, transparent, takes into account net benefits to stakeholders as well as costs and benefits considerations, and utilizes sound science; and

Whereas, in too many instances the current Federal regulatory process fails to live up to these principles to the potential detriment not just of farmers and ranchers but of all stakeholders across America, therefore

Be it resolved that the delegates of the American Farm Bureau Federation urge the Trump Administration and Congress to make reform of the rulemaking process a high priority; to work in a cooperative, bipartisan fashion on legislation that reflects the principles of American Farm Bureau policies; and to enact these reforms as soon as possible in the 115th Congress.